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PATENT APPLICATION

2622

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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2-18-04

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: I.A. Rahimi
MIZUKI MURAMATSU)
: TC/Art Unit: 2622
Application No.: 09/516,969)
:
Filed: February 29, 2000)
:
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS)
AND METHOD, AND STORAGE :
MEDIUM) February 11, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO ELECTION-OF-SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

The Office Action dated January 15, 2004, imposed an election-of-species requirement in the above-identified application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits in this application. The Office Action states that no claims are generic.

The Examiner alleged the existence of claims directed to ten (10) patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species 1: Figures 1-8, "relating to specific image having superimposed noise";
- Species 2: Figures 9 and 10, "relating to specific image outputted with low frequency";
- Species 3: Figures 12 and 13, "relating to specific image having image data synthesized with sub-image data";
- Species 4: Figure 15, "relating to specific image outputted with the lowest resolution";

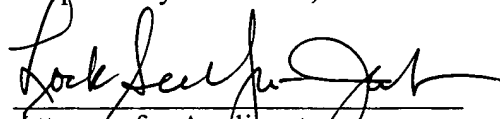
- Species 5: Figure 16, "relating to specific image with the lowest resolution is enlarged to an image size as that of the highest resolution";
- Species 6: Figures 17-19, "relating to specific image with noise removed from the image";
- Species 7: Figures 21-30, "relating to specific image getting halftone processing using dithering";
- Species 8: Figures 31-35, "relating to specific image having image data converted to monochrome image";
- Species 9: Figures 39-43, "relating to specific image with image data replaced"; and
- Species 10: Figure 44, "relating to specific image with image data inverted".

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, Species 4, on which Claims 1-5, 42, and 47 are readable, for prosecution on the merits.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Lock Sze Yu
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200